

Senate File 331 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 331

BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 71)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to lighting devices and other equipment on
2 snow plows and authorized emergency vehicles, providing
3 penalties, making penalties applicable, and including
4 effective date provisions.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.393, subsections 4 and 5, Code 2021,
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 4. The provisions of this section shall not prohibit the
4 use of a lighting device or reflector displaying an amber light
5 when such lighting device or reflector is mounted on a motor
6 truck, trailer, tractor, or motor grader owned by the state,
7 or any political subdivision of the state, ~~or any municipality~~
8 therein including any local authority, while such equipment is
9 being used for snow removal, sanding, maintenance, or repair of
10 the public streets or highways.

11 5. The provisions of this section shall not prohibit the
12 use of a lighting device or reflector displaying an amber,
13 white, or blue light when the lighting device or reflector is
14 rear-facing and mounted on a motor truck, trailer, tractor,
15 truck-mounted snow blower, or motor grader owned by the
16 ~~department~~ state or any political subdivision of the state,
17 including any local authority, while the equipment is being
18 used for snow and ice treatment or removal on the public
19 streets or highways.

20 Sec. 2. Section 321.423, subsection 2, paragraph f, Code
21 2021, is amended to read as follows:

22 *f.* A flashing white light, including a flashing headlamp, is
23 permitted on a vehicle pursuant to subsection 7.

24 Sec. 3. Section 321.423, subsection 3, paragraph a,
25 subparagraphs (3) and (4), Code 2021, are amended to read as
26 follows:

27 (3) An authorized emergency vehicle, other than a vehicle
28 described in paragraph "a", subparagraph (1) or (2), ~~if the blue~~
29 ~~light is positioned on the passenger side of the vehicle and is~~
30 ~~used in conjunction with a red light positioned on the driver~~
31 ~~side of the vehicle.~~

32 (4) A motor truck, trailer, tractor, truck-mounted snow
33 blower, or motor grader owned by the ~~department~~ state or
34 any political subdivision of the state, including any local
35 authority, if the blue light is rear-facing and used in

1 conjunction with amber and white lighting devices or reflectors
2 while the equipment is being used for snow and ice treatment or
3 removal on the public streets or highways.

4 Sec. 4. Section 321.423, subsection 7, paragraph a,
5 subparagraph (4), Code 2021, is amended to read as follows:

6 (4) On a motor truck, trailer, tractor, truck-mounted
7 snow blower, or motor grader owned by the ~~department~~ state or
8 any political subdivision of the state, including any local
9 authority, if the white light is rear-facing and used in
10 conjunction with amber and blue lighting devices or reflectors
11 while the equipment is being used for snow and ice treatment or
12 removal on the public streets or highways.

13 Sec. 5. Section 321.423, subsection 7, paragraph a, Code
14 2021, is amended by adding the following new subparagraphs:

15 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (5) On a motor truck or trailer owned
16 and operated by the department equipped with an impact
17 attenuator and audible warning system, if the flashing white
18 light is rear-facing on the audible warning system and used in
19 conjunction with amber lighting devices or reflectors while
20 the motor truck or trailer is being used for slow-moving
21 maintenance operations.

22 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (6) On a vehicle or other equipment
23 not owned and operated by the department when used in road
24 work zones on state or local highways as authorized by the
25 department. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to
26 chapter 17A regarding the vehicles or equipment eligible to use
27 a flashing white light under this subparagraph.

28 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. **321.424 Authorized emergency vehicle**
29 **lights.**

30 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary:

31 1. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with
32 a combination of interior and exterior lights, flashing
33 headlamps, and flashing tail lamps as provided in this section
34 and in this chapter.

35 2. An official law enforcement, fire department, emergency

1 medical services, or emergency management vehicle owned by the
2 state or a municipality, as defined in section 670.1, may be
3 equipped with flashing headlamps.

4 3. An authorized emergency vehicle owned by the state,
5 a municipality, as defined in section 670.1, or a private
6 emergency medical services company delivering services to the
7 state, a municipality, or a hospital pursuant to a written
8 contract, or a privately owned vehicle designated as an
9 authorized emergency vehicle pursuant to section 321.451, shall
10 be equipped with a combination of operational red and blue
11 lights. However, a towing or recovery vehicle, unless owned
12 by the state or a municipality, shall not be equipped with red
13 and blue lights.

14 4. An authorized emergency vehicle equipped with an
15 interior or exterior light bar must have the light bar
16 positioned such that front and rear facing red lights are on
17 the driver's side of the vehicle and front and rear facing blue
18 lights are on the passenger's side of the vehicle.

19 5. An authorized emergency vehicle equipped with an
20 interior or exterior light bar with red and blue flashing
21 lights may be equipped with flashing or solid white lights
22 scattered among or between a clear or colored lens that
23 displays a red or blue flashing light.

24 6. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with one
25 or more lights capable of emitting a split red and blue steady
26 or flashing light, which may be mounted on or in the vehicle.

27 7. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with one
28 or more lights on the side of the vehicle capable of emitting
29 red and blue light, red and white light, or blue and white
30 light.

31 8. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with one
32 or more lights with a clear or colored lens.

33 9. An official law enforcement, fire, rescue, emergency
34 medical services, or emergency management vehicle may be
35 equipped with lights or light bars containing one or more rear

1 zone amber lights or amber directional arrows, which shall
2 be in addition to any other required lighting equipment. An
3 authorized emergency vehicle shall not be equipped with an
4 amber light positioned on the front or side of the vehicle.
5 However, an aerial fire apparatus may be equipped with amber
6 flashing lights on the outriggers of the apparatus.

7 10. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with
8 one or more steady, oscillating, or flashing white lights,
9 flashing headlamps, or flashing reverse lamps, which shall be
10 in addition to any other required lighting equipment. A light
11 bar shall not be equipped or used to display flashing white
12 lights visible from the rear of the vehicle. This subsection
13 shall not be construed to prohibit an authorized emergency
14 vehicle owned by the state or a municipality, as defined in
15 section 670.1, from being equipped with or using a spotlight or
16 exterior light bar capable of displaying a steady white light
17 for use as a work light, alley light, search light, or take
18 down light.

19 11. An authorized emergency vehicle owned by a state or a
20 municipality, as defined in section 670.1, that is primarily
21 used as an incident command vehicle may be equipped with one
22 or more steady or flashing green lights, which shall be in
23 addition to any other required lighting equipment. A steady
24 or flashing green light equipped pursuant to this subsection
25 shall not be activated unless the vehicle is being used as
26 a stationary incident command post at the location of an
27 emergency incident, an official training exercise, or for
28 maintenance or demonstration purposes.

29 12. An official fire department or emergency medical
30 services vehicle purchased, delivered, or refurbished on or
31 after July 1, 2021, shall be equipped with a master warning
32 switch to activate all emergency lights on the vehicle, in
33 addition to one or more switches to separately activate or
34 isolate the front, side, and rear warning lights.

35 Sec. 7. Section 321.433, Code 2021, is amended to read as

1 follows:

2 **321.433 Sirens, whistles, and bells prohibited.**

3 1. A vehicle shall not be equipped with and a person shall
4 not use upon a vehicle any siren, whistle, or bell, except as
5 otherwise permitted in **this section**. It is permissible but
6 not required that any commercial vehicle be equipped with a
7 theft alarm signal device which is so arranged that it cannot
8 be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal. Any
9 authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a siren,
10 whistle, or bell capable of emitting sound audible under normal
11 conditions from a distance of not less than five hundred feet,
12 but the siren, whistle, or bell shall not be used except when
13 the vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call,
14 an incident dangerous to the public, an official training
15 exercise, for maintenance or demonstration purposes, or in
16 the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of
17 the law, and the driver of the vehicle shall sound the siren,
18 whistle, or bell when necessary to warn pedestrians and other
19 drivers of the approach of the vehicle.

20 2. A towing or recovery vehicle, unless owned by the state
21 or a municipality, as defined in section 670.1, shall not be
22 equipped with a siren.

23 Sec. 8. Section 805.8A, subsection 3, Code 2021, is amended
24 by adding the following new paragraph:

25 NEW PARAGRAPH. *Oac.* Section 321.424... § 45.

26 Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate
27 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

28 EXPLANATION

29 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
30 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

31 In 2015, the general assembly authorized motor trucks,
32 trailers, tractors, truck-mounted snow blowers, and motor
33 graders owned by the department of transportation (DOT)
34 and used for snow and ice treatment or removal to display
35 rear-facing blue and white lighting devices or reflectors in

1 conjunction with amber lighting devices or reflectors. These
2 authorizations were set to be repealed July 1, 2019. In 2018,
3 the general assembly struck these future repeal provisions.

4 This bill applies those authorizations to such vehicles
5 owned by the state or any political subdivision of the
6 state, including any local authority. Under Code chapter
7 321, a "local authority" is any county, municipal, and other
8 local board or body having authority to adopt local police
9 regulations under the constitution and laws of the state.

10 The bill allows authorized emergency vehicles to be equipped
11 with a variety of lighting devices, including flashing
12 headlamps, flashing or solid white lights, split red and blue
13 steady or flashing lights, and lights or light bars containing
14 one or more rear zone amber lights or amber directional arrows.
15 The bill includes as vehicles authorized to use a flashing
16 white light motor trucks or trailers owned and operated by the
17 DOT equipped with an impact attenuator and audible warning
18 system, if the flashing white light is rear-facing on the
19 audible warning system and used in conjunction with amber
20 lighting devices or reflectors while the motor truck or trailer
21 is being used for slow-moving maintenance operations, and
22 vehicles or other equipment not owned and operated by the DOT
23 when used in road work zones on state or local highways as
24 authorized by the DOT.

25 The bill requires authorized emergency vehicles to be
26 equipped with a combination of operational red and blue lights,
27 and if equipped with a light bar, requires the light bar to
28 be positioned such that the front and rear facing red lights
29 are on the driver's side of the vehicle and the front and rear
30 facing blue lights are on the passenger's side of the vehicle.
31 The bill also requires an official fire department or emergency
32 medical services vehicle purchased, delivered, or refurbished
33 on or after July 1, 2021, to be equipped with a master warning
34 switch to activate all emergency lights on the vehicle, in
35 addition to one or more switches to separately activate or

1 isolate the front, side, and rear warning lights. In addition,
2 an incident command vehicle may be equipped with one or more
3 steady or flashing green lights. However, a towing or recovery
4 vehicle, unless owned by the state or a municipality, is
5 prohibited from being equipped with red and blue lights and a
6 siren.

7 Under current law, a violation of Code section 321.423 or
8 321.433 is punishable by a scheduled fine of \$45. The bill
9 provides that violations of Code section 321.424 are also
10 punishable by a scheduled fine of \$45.

11 The bill takes effect upon enactment.